

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Review

Findings Summary

July 2018

Review Activities

The review activities were completed between April and June 2018 and included:

- **Online survey** – 70 completed responses, 80 partial responses
- **Internal focus group** – 8 attendees
- **External focus group (a)** – 12 attendees
- **External focus group (b)** – 1 attendee
- **Internal interviews** – 7
 - Public Health, Employment & Skills, Corporate Transformation, Community Protection, Youth Engagement, Capital Programme Office, Housing Management
- **Member's online survey** – 5 completed responses, 8 partial responses (15/06/18)
- **Member's focus group** (4th July tbc)
- **Benchmarking**
 - Local Authorities
 - Other Funding Programmes – Wembley National Stadium Trust, Wembley Park, London Community Foundation, Big Lottery
 - Brent Partnerships & Engagement Team

Themes

Over the course of the review, the following 7 themes emerged:

1. Neighbourhood boundaries,
2. Neighbourhood priorities,
3. Grant process and number of submissions,
4. Shortlisting criteria,
5. Panel membership,
6. Distribution of funds,
7. Capacity building and administration.

Boundaries

- Some focus group attendees perceived existing CIL Neighbourhoods as being too broad with the five CIL neighbourhoods having too many physical and demographic disparities
- Ward level boundaries were suggested as an alternative, mirroring what happens in other Local Authorities
- Survey comments evidenced a lack of understanding of the boundaries of existing CIL Neighbourhoods and what was included

None. Where is Cricklewood and Dudden Hill / Dollis Hill? Forgotten swathes of Brent....

Why is Wembley on here? They get enough funding! And why is Kilburn and Kensal Rise lumped together? They should be treated separately as should Kingsbury and Kenton!

I work in the Neasden area but it is not on your list why not

Residents understand wards more than NCIL boundaries – should we explain to residents better

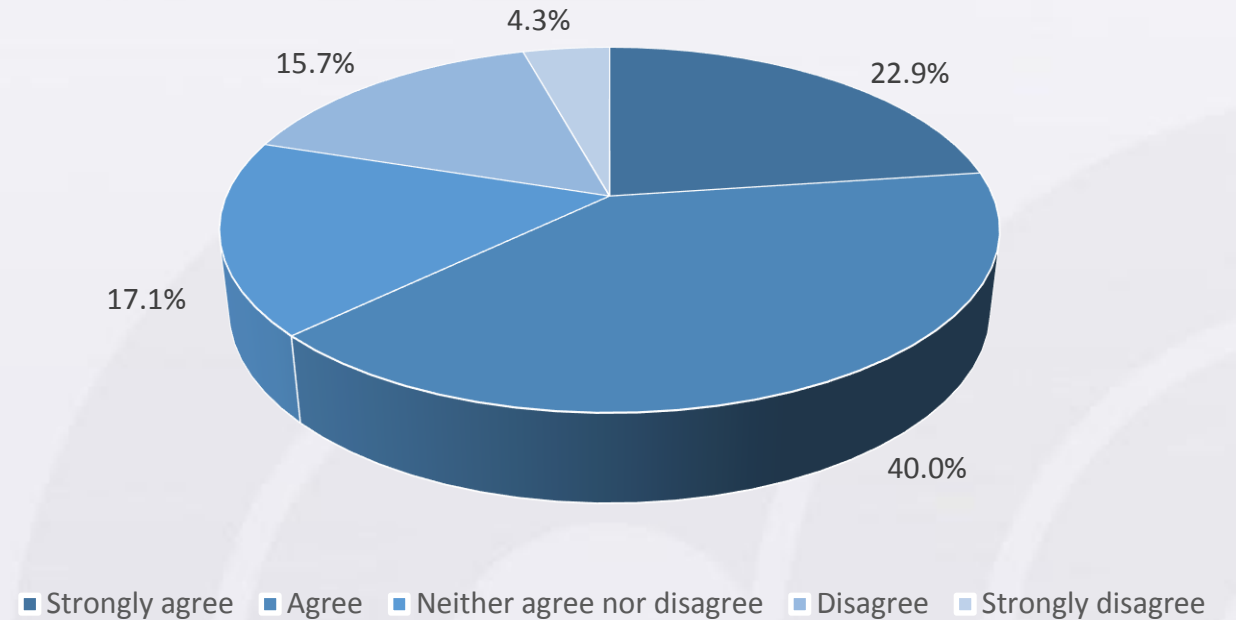


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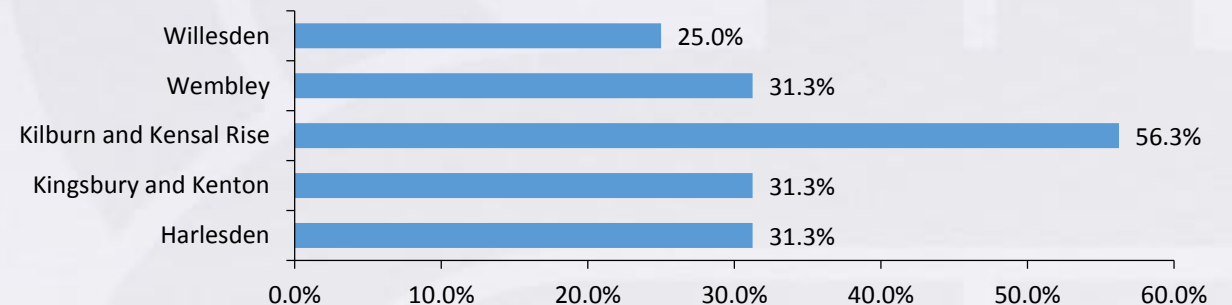
Priorities

- 62.9% of 70 survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that priorities were appropriate for the five NCIL areas.
- 20 respondents expressed opinion on areas they disagreed with. The majority (9) felt Kilburn and Kensal Rise did not have suitable priorities, with the remaining nearly equally split between Kingsbury and Kenton (5), Harlesden (5), Wembley (5) and Willesden (4).
- Recurring survey comments and issues included a focus on social need rather than just physical infrastructure (i.e. Young People, Community Safety etc.) and the cross over of priorities for all areas i.e. Transport & Road or Community Space & Cultural facilities across the borough
- The focus groups also felt priorities could potentially be borough wide, or include social priorities. A key issue was to keep the priorities flexible.

To what extent do you agree that the above priorities are appropriate for all the neighbourhood areas?



Which neighbourhood area do you feel does not have suitable priorities? Please tick all that apply.



I think that Kingsbury and Kenton should not be the only area that does not feature community spaces and cultural facilities. Chalk Hill Estate is in Barnhill Ward and could have made use of this money...

There should be priorities specifically around young people and community safety

Transport and road should feature much higher as it is key to developing an environment from which every thing else will blossom.

Need to do more to improve green spaces, and access to them, green infrastructure as well.

Emphasis on art and culture, given the awarding of the 'London Borough of Culture' bid, would be an added bonus. There are many local artists and it would be great if the Council is able to highlight their talents more.

More money is needed for social support, groups and community spaces.

Emphasis on protecting residents via environmental and green initiatives. An example would include enhancing the quality of people's daily lives and protecting them from the impact of pollution - air quality and the importance of the role of the natural environment - mature street trees, wildlife corridors, etc.

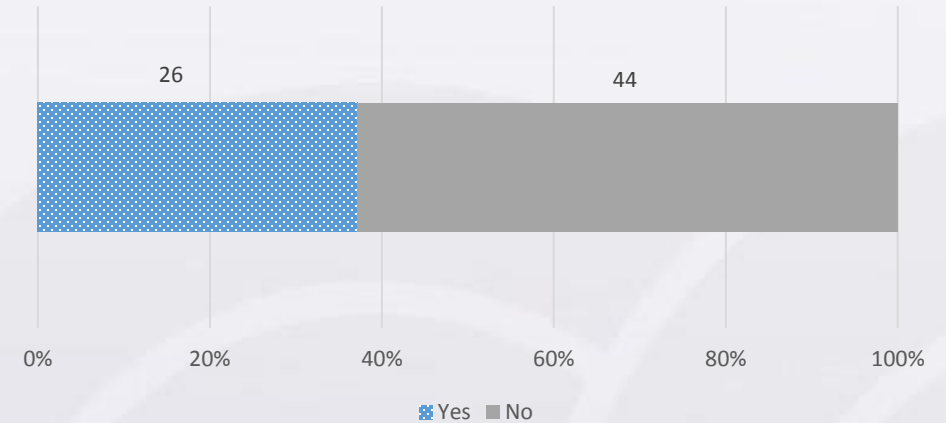


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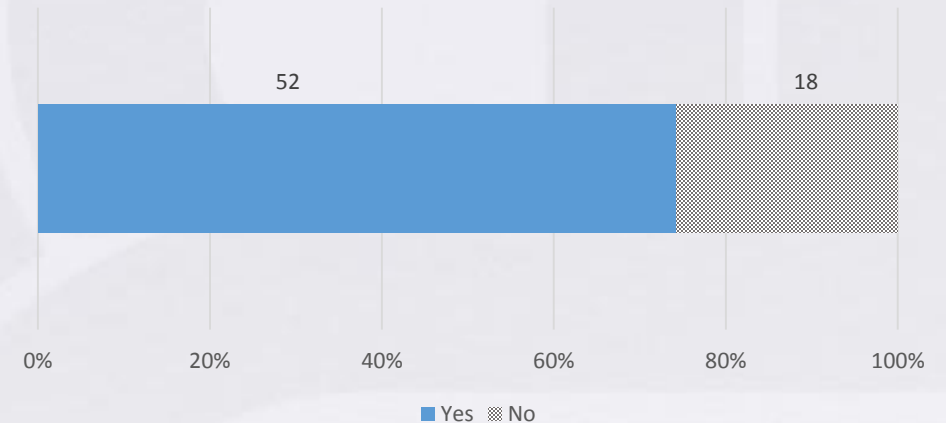
Grant Process

- General agreement, in focus groups and across interviews, that it was good that anyone could bid for NCIL funds.
- 62.9% of survey respondents felt there should not be a limit on amount of funding.
- 74.3% of survey respondents preferred having two submissions per year, this was echoed in the internal and external focus groups as it allows greater flexibility and responsiveness to local need.
- Benchmarking against other funding programmes and Local Authorities, as well growing number of applications suggest one submission per year may be more suitable.

Do you feel there should be a limit on the amount of funding awarded to any one organisation?



Do you think having two submissions for NCIL proposals per year is the most suitable approach?



While two decision points year might be the right balance I believe there should be a process of continual submission to enable proposals to gain feedback and improve their submissions, much like local action groups do.

I think there should be a small pot set aside for small bids in-between

Two submissions seems adequate

Why limit creativity?

Because some organisations cover many things that can improve an area. You should be allowed to make as many applications as you like

I think there should be a small pot set aside for small bids in-between

No, as long there is transparency and the reasons are justified. All award information should be made public.

I think organisations should be able to re-apply at any time as long as it is a new project that is not a continuation of previously funded projects, or ongoing operational costs. However, bids should be judged on their merits, which would not necessarily restrict applications.

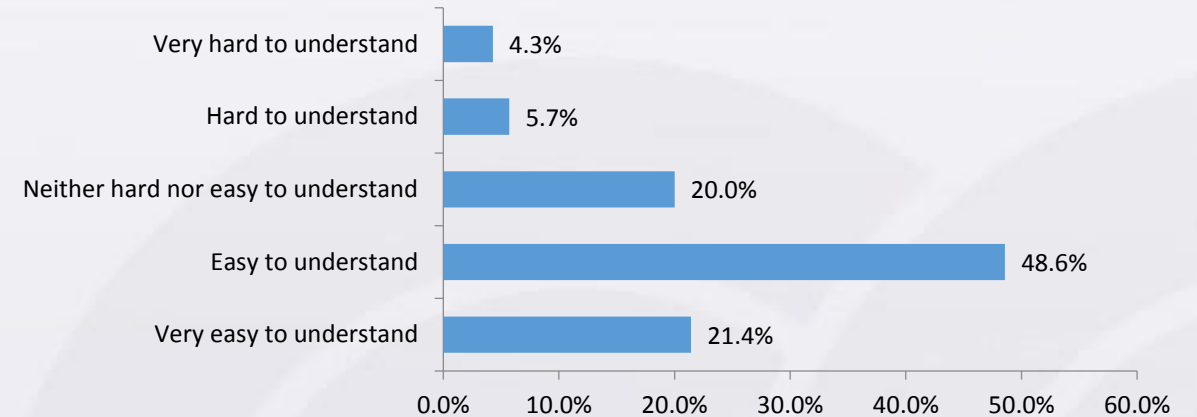


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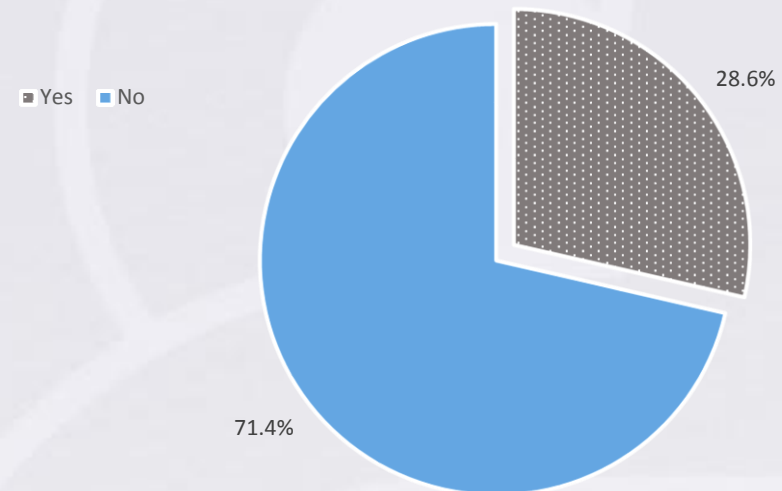
Shortlisting Criteria

- Only 10% of respondents felt it was hard or very hard to understand the shortlisting criteria
- Only 28.6% that felt changes should be made to the shortlisting criteria, with similar agreement in the external focus group
- Suggestions for improvement included further clarification on more technical points and the negative implications of 'broadest section of community'
- Internal teams felt there needed to be additional element of shortlisting to make sure a project aligned to Council areas

Which of the following best describes how well you understood the shortlisting criteria for NCIL funded projects?



Do you think changes should be made to the shortlisting criteria?



While two decision points year might be the right balance I believe there should be a process of continual submission to enable proposals to gain feedback and improve their submissions, much like local action groups do. If successful, the system could move to 3 decision points yearly.

May be good to reword to does it benefit the community

Given the issue of knife crime and gang culture in the borough rethink the 'benefit to the broadest section of the community' criteria to cover specific facilities aimed at young people.

May be good to reword to does it benefit the community

Further clarification and detail on each of the points e.g. how to evidence/ document mitigating impact of development

The choice of criteria is fine as a whole

There should be clear explanation of the CIL Regulations (2010) as amended and also its requirement in terms of the criteria set by the council

A description of the CIL Regulations (2010) is required. The Council priorities need to be stated.

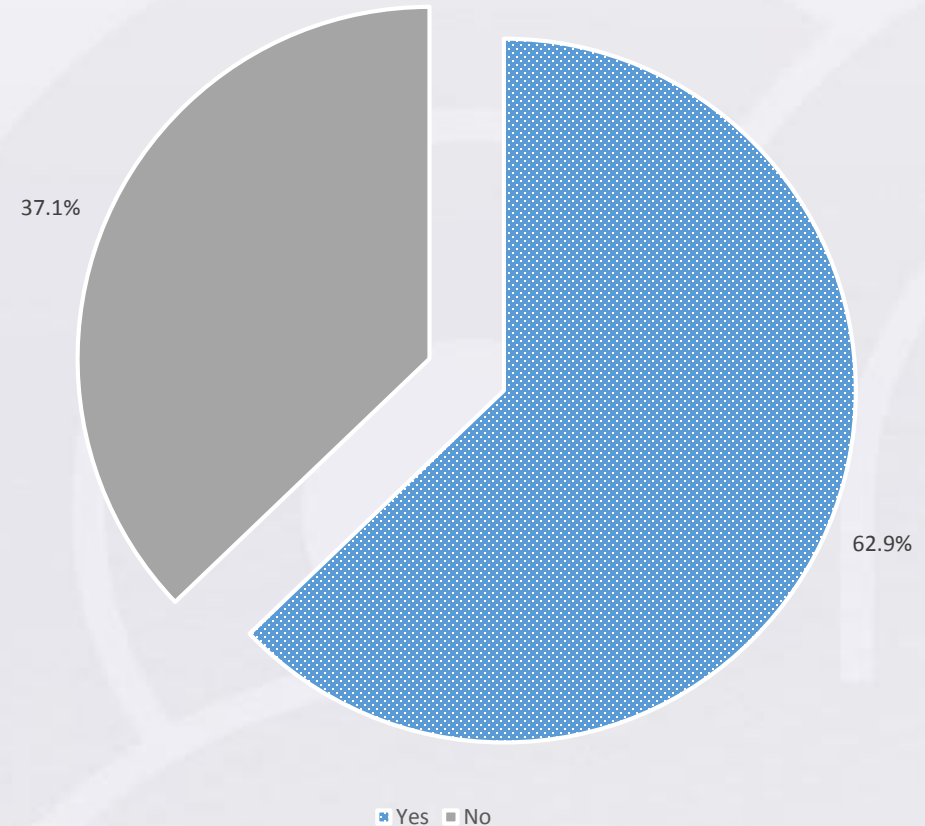


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Panel Membership

- 62.9% of respondents believed the panel should be changed. This was somewhat mirrored in the focus groups
- The majority of respondents felt the panel should be increased to three members to allow for a deciding vote.
- Other suggestions through included widening membership to community representatives, including representatives from more service areas in addition to Planning (e.g. partnerships and engagement) including more Lead Members, having an independent panel and having young people on the panel

Do you have suggestions about how the funding panel could be changed or improved in the future?



Local residents and local businesses should be involved as they are the ones who actually see and live with the problems.

I think you should have someone independently from the Council, maybe from the third sector.

There should be more people involved in the decision process.

Involve equality officers or council workers who work with migrant communities

Have an odd (say 3) number of panellists so there can be a majority decision.

A representative from a borough-wide voluntary organisation (e.g. CVS Brent) should be included.

Needs to be more representative. Include reps from: Voluntary sector, culture, education, health, children & young people

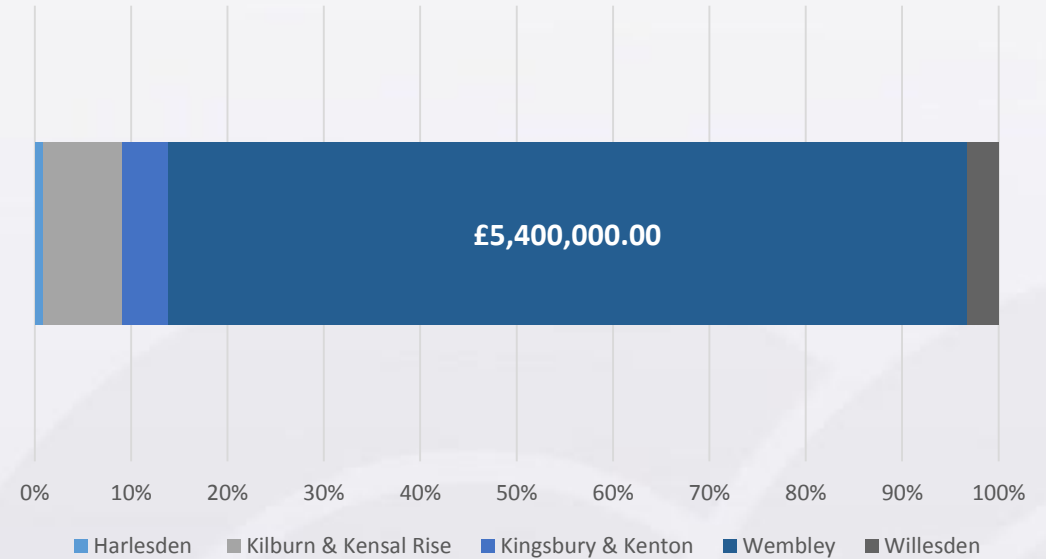
A council member for sports, leisure and community, and 2 lay members with appropriate experience and skill, who can be neutral 'non-executives'



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Distribution of Funds

- Distribution of funds was discussed in both focus groups, as well as in internal interview with different teams and key stakeholders
- The focus groups and interviews evidenced a perception that Wembley benefits the most, from development and NCIL, and poorer, more deprived areas like Harlesden who need more investment lose out
- General consensus that development affects the entire borough and therefore the entire borough should benefit from NCIL



People move around the borough to use services so should distribute should reflect this

Regeneration should benefit the whole borough

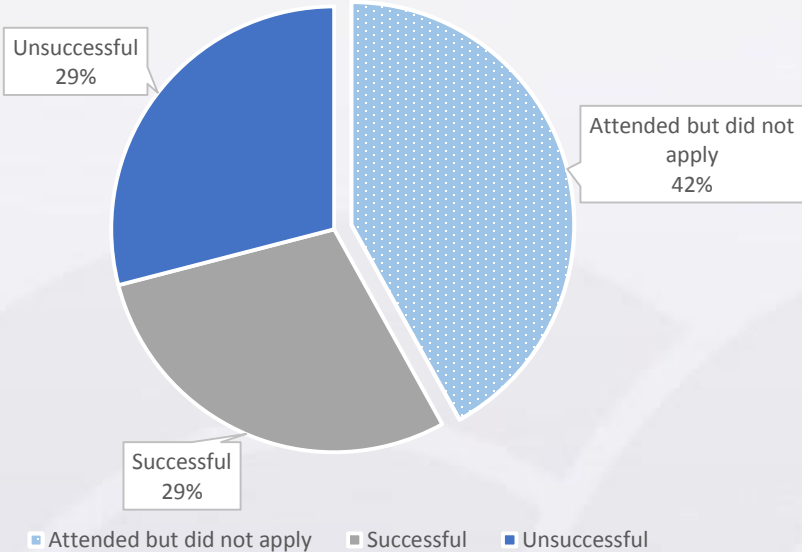
Still need to take into account where the development is happening



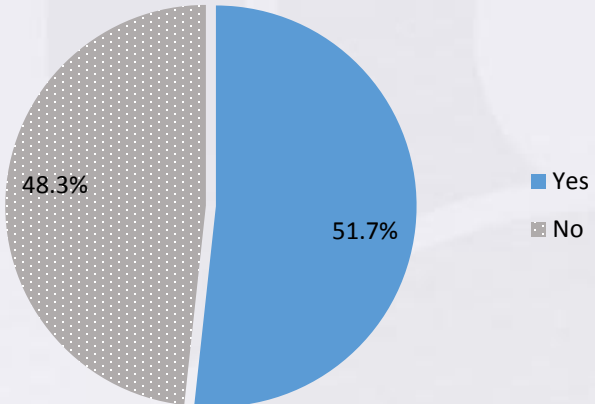
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Capacity Building

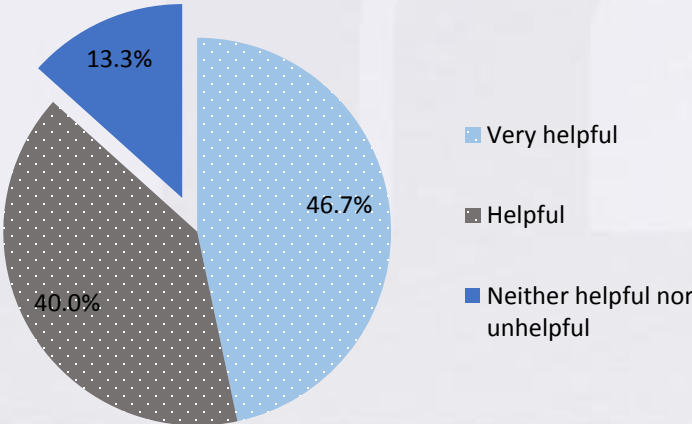
- A number of survey comments addressed a need for increased support for community groups and internal teams flagged a need for additional oversight of project proposals
- In collaboration with CVS Brent, workshops are held in the run up to each application round. 50% of those who received support from CVS Brent (and made an application) were successful. Overall, many individuals attended a CVS Brent workshop but then did not go on to apply for NCIL funds
- 51.6% of survey respondents who had submitted an application had received support from CVS Brent. 81.6% of those who had received support felt it was either helpful or very helpful.



Did you receive any support to prepare and submit your grant proposal form from Brent Council/ CVS Brent?



How helpful was the support?



More detailed feedback given in the unsuccessful response, what could have been included or omitted...Having something in black and white would have helped and made me feel you had really looked at the bid and considered it.

Communication and personal building of relationships - listen and act.

Offer CIL training and guidance workshops in evening and weekends not during day time when many people work. I have been unable to attend 2 CVS have put together as I have to go to work

Provide info to voluntary and community groups and to political party ward branches and encourage them to promote.

more engagement through the existing forums

Impact on officers if project have impact on Brent Council

More cost information – how have they arrived at their numbers

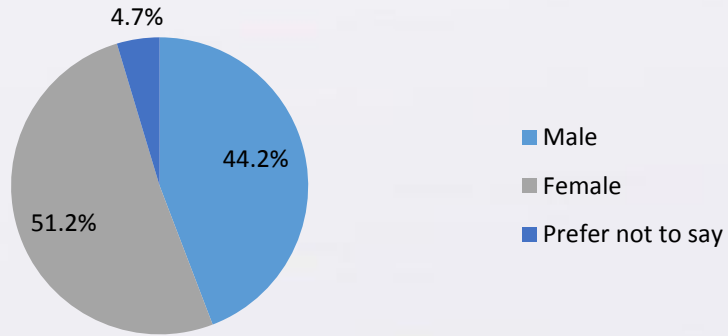


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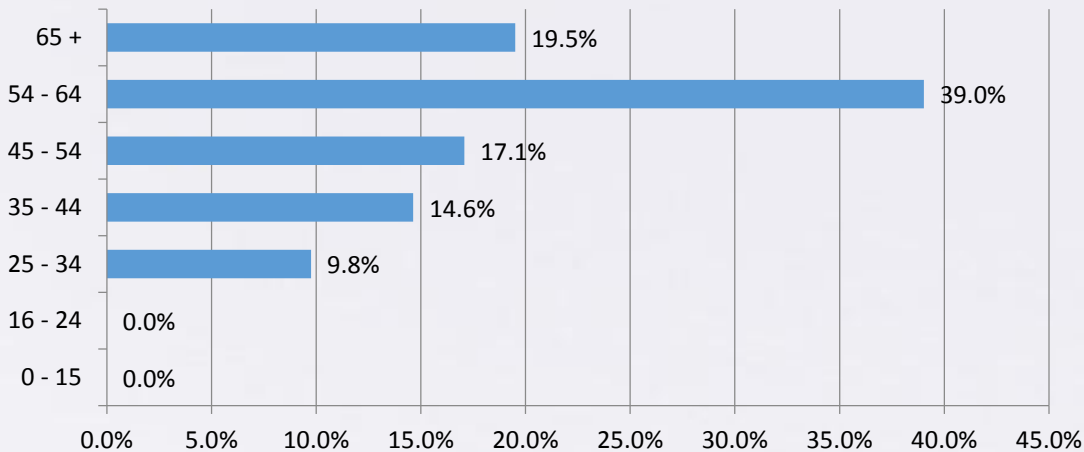
Equalities

58.6% of respondents were happy to provide personal information

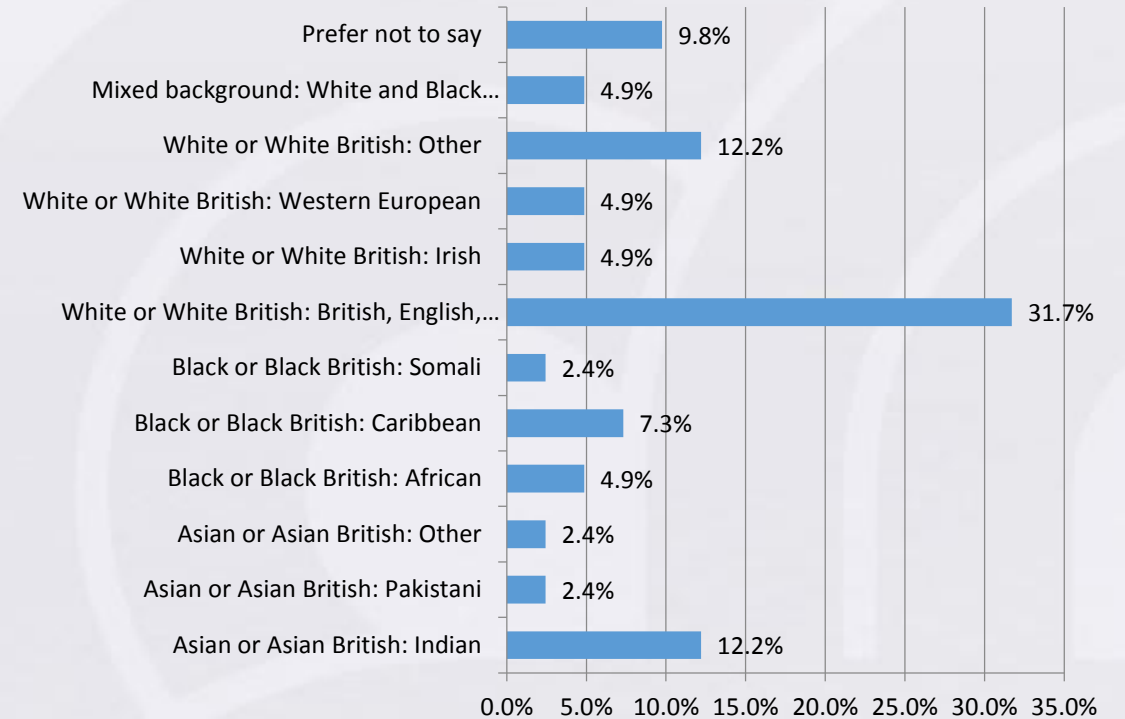
Gender



Age group

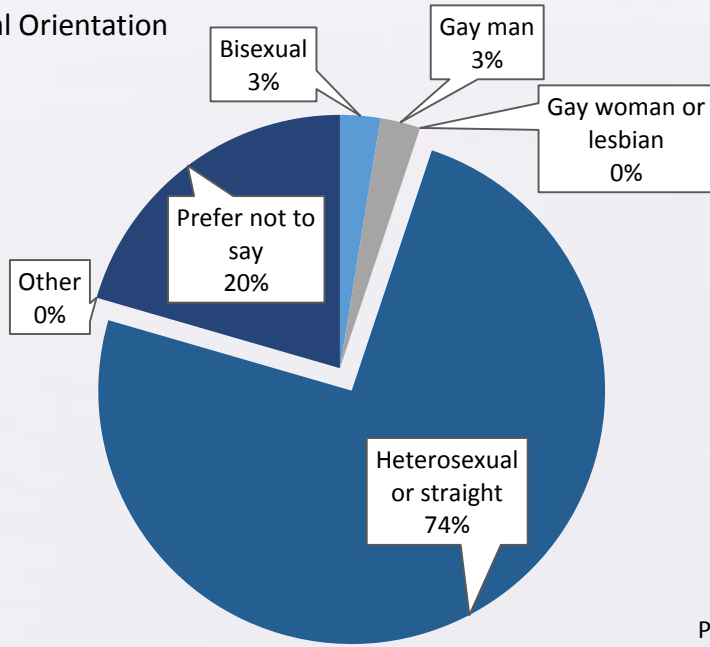


Ethnicity

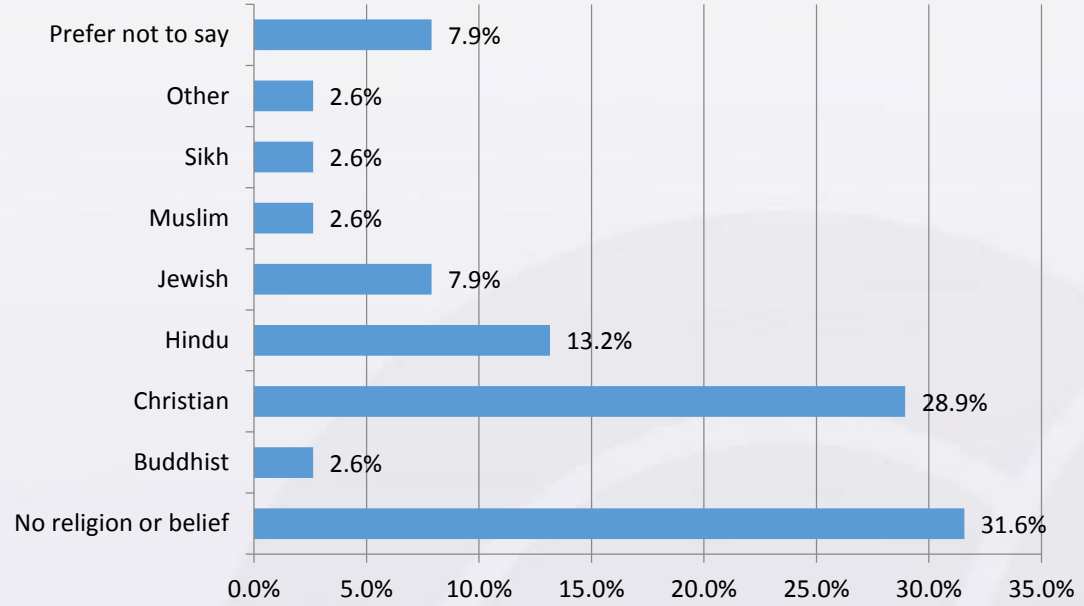


Equalities

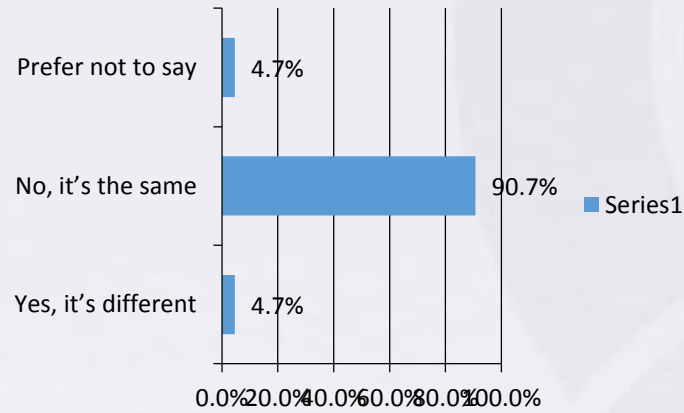
Sexual Orientation



Religion or Belief



Gender - same as birth?



Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

